

second grippers with the rotation of cylinders of the rotary printing press.

It is respectfully submitted that this element of the invention was clearly described in originally filed claim 4, which fully shows that the inventor had possession of the present invention claimed in claim 4.

In addition, the present specification also fully enables the present invention as disclosed on page 7, lines 10 to 23 of the present invention which describes how the control circuit 30 can take input from the sensors 44a, 44b to determine the position of the sheet in relation to the printing press and hence the cylinders. As described, the control on the basis of the sensors 44a, 44b compensates for skewing, but also to synchronize the sheet 2 with the motion of cylinders 50, 51. Thus by controlling grippers 20a, 20b, the synchronization is achieved. Every structural element required for this synchronization: sensors, grippers and control circuit are disclosed and discussed.

Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10 to 17 and 20 were rejected under Kruger in view of Spiess. Claims 8, 9, 18 and 19 were rejected further in view of DE 4302125.

Kruger, assigned to the present assignee, discloses a sheet transport system for a rotary printing press, with a first drive element on a first rail and a second drive element on a second rail. The drive elements shown in the figures are held together via a sheet holder having grippers mounted on a cross member, with the grippers engaging a front edge of the sheet.

Spiess discloses a gripper mechanism with side grippers b1, b2. However, in both embodiments grippers b1, b2 clearly are mechanically coupled to each other: as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 4, the drive wheel c for grippers b1 and wheel d for grippers b2 are coupled together by a cross-gear. (See dotted lines in Fig. 2 and Fig. 4). This is also clear from the fact that in 1914, when the patent is from, there would have been no way to run these two drives to run in a synchronous fashion without mechanical coupling.

Claim 2 recites "the at least one first gripper being mechanically decoupled from the at least one second gripper."

Claim 12 recites a method with the second gripper being mechanically decoupled from

the first gripper.

Claim 14 recites the at least one first gripper being mechanically decoupled from the at least one second gripper."

As stated above, Spiess does not show a gripper mechanism where the grippers b1 and b2 are mechanically decoupled. Rather a cross-gear couples the drive wheels c and d for each set of grippers.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 2, 12 and 14 and their dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 9, 18 and 19 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kruger in view of Spiess and further in view of DE 4,302,125.

Kruger and Spiess are discussed above. DE 4302125 discloses that printed sheets 2 are gripped by the leading edge by grips on an endless chain drive 10 to be pulled along the top of the endless drive and down over one end to be laid on a stack. To improve the sheet support additional grips for the sides of each sheet are mounted on a separate endless belt drive 15 which guides the sheets to a stack.

Claim 8 recites "magnets arranged at at least one of an intake area and at an outlet area of the first and second rails for opening the clamping jaws by magnetic force" and it is respectfully submitted that magnets are not shown in the cited prior art references.

Withdrawal for this reason in addition to the arguments with respect to claim 2 above is respectfully requested as well.

CONCLUSION

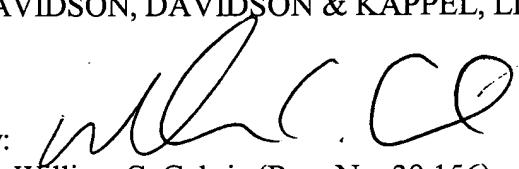
It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and applicant respectfully requests such action.

If any additional fees are deemed to be due at this time, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

Respectfully submitted,

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